

# Burning Responsibly

TIPS

Burning in a burn barrel, fire pit, fireplace or wood stove, emits a host of pollutants into our air. These pollutants don't just contaminate our air; they also end up in our lakes – what goes up, must come down!

It is best to minimize how much and how often you burn but most importantly, you need to be responsible about what you burn. Some items should *never* be burned because they burn poorly, creating more pollution.

You don't have to give up your campfire or fireplace, but you should use and maintain them in ways that can cut pollution!

## 1 Never Burn These Items

Garbage and other domestic waste

Anything made of plastic

Anything made of oil

Construction waste

Wet wood and leaves

Rotten wood or green wood (green wood is recently cut wood that hasn't had a chance to cure)

Pressure-treated wood

Particle board/plywood

Coloured or glossy paper

Cardboard

Coal

## 2 Alternatives to Burning Waste

### Reduce, reuse and recycle

Reduce and reuse before you recycle everything possible

### Compost

Composting naturally turns organic material – including food scraps, leaves and weeds – into rich soil conditioner

If bears are an issue, put your compost in a bear-resistant enclosure

### Use a Chipper

Brush, pruning, land-clearing debris, and wood waste from construction or demolition sites can all be turned into wood chips for mulch

Chippers are more affordable if neighbours or friends get together to share the cost and use



# 3

## Burn as Cleanly as Possible

Burn only clean, dry, and properly seasoned wood

Burn wood at as high a temperature as possible – this burns more cleanly and prevents the release of partially-combusted pollutants

For indoor burning, make sure that your fireplace

or wood stove is properly installed and has adequate ventilation

Have your fireplace and wood stove cleaned and inspected annually

If you are in the market for an advanced technology, high efficiency fireplace or wood stove, consider appliances that

are Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) certified. These appliances can burn wood more completely and they produce less smoke.



Ontario and all Canadian provinces have developed a Code of Practice for Residential Wood Burning Appliances, 2012, prepared by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). The Code describes by-law and program elements for municipal adoption, including best operating practices, change-out programs for advanced technology appliances and enforcement actions, where needed, for wood-burning curtailment in response to air quality issues.

For more information please read CCME Code of Practice for Residential Wood Burning Appliances, 2012:

[http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/pn\\_1479\\_wood\\_burning\\_code\\_eng.pdf](http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/pn_1479_wood_burning_code_eng.pdf)

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